

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mrs. Cipriano  
English 12  
DUE: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Lesson 14 Vocabulary Words**

Directions: Write a sentence for each word.

1. adduce
2. confound
3. construe
4. conundrum
5. cryptic
6. equivocate
7. paradox
8. patent
9. perspicacity
10. rudimentary



L14 Vocabulary

Mrs. Cipriano  
English 12**WRITE THE CORRECT WORD**

Write the correct word in the space next to each definition.

- |                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| _____ 1. a sharpness; an astuteness | _____ 6. basic; elementary                           |
| _____ 2. obvious; apparent          | _____ 7. to make confused                            |
| _____ 3. to cite as an example      | _____ 8. to interpret                                |
| _____ 4. having hidden meaning      | _____ 9. to use evasive language                     |
| _____ 5. a difficult problem        | _____ 10. a contradictory statement that may be true |

**COMPLETE THE SENTENCE**

Write the letter for the word that best completes each sentence.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Clearly created by someone with a wry sense of humor, the \_\_\_\_\_ sign read, "Please ignore this sign."  
a. patented      b. adduced      c. construed      d. paradoxical
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Jim \_\_\_\_\_ so often that his friends no longer expect a straight answer from him.  
a. equivocates      b. patents      c. construes      d. adduces
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Rita's error was so \_\_\_\_\_ that we couldn't believe no one else noticed it.  
a. paradoxical      b. cryptic      c. patent      d. perspicacious
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Considering that poetry is generally intended to have multiple layers of meaning, it is not surprising that people often \_\_\_\_\_ the same poem differently.  
a. equivocate      b. construe      c. adduce      d. confound
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. \_\_\_\_\_ experience with a potter's wheel is a prerequisite for this ceramics class.  
a. Patent      b. Rudimentary      c. Cryptic      d. Perspicacious
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Marie complained that the play's convoluted plot \_\_\_\_\_ her completely.  
a. confounded      b. adduced      c. construed      d. equivocated
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. In his helpful talk, the treasurer clearly \_\_\_\_\_ the relevant economic realities.  
a. confounded      b. equivocated      c. patented      d. adduced
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. The clues for the treasure hunt were so \_\_\_\_\_ that no one found the treasure.  
a. rudimentary      b. cryptic      c. patent      d. construed
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. The exact method of the transmission of hereditary characteristics remained a \_\_\_\_\_ until the discovery of DNA.  
a. perspicacity      b. patent      c. conundrum      d. rudiment
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Only a few investors had the \_\_\_\_\_ to foresee the stock's growth potential.  
a. equivocation      b. paradox      c. perspicacity      d. patent

**Challenge:** The \_\_\_\_\_ philosopher solved the paradoxical conundrum, but none of his peers could understand his \_\_\_\_\_ explanation.  
\_\_\_\_\_ a. rudimentary...patent      b. perspicacious...cryptic      c. equivocal...confounded

- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. The fortuneteller described my future so \_\_\_\_\_ that I wondered if he was just trying to avoid saying anything definite at all. (*cryptic*)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. A \_\_\_\_\_ interviewer draws illuminating responses from his or her subject. (*perspicacity*)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Deciding which kitten to adopt was a \_\_\_\_\_ for Sue. (*conundrum*)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. To safely navigate the course of a boat in unfamiliar waters, you must know at least the \_\_\_\_\_ of reading nautical charts. (*rudimentary*)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Because the candidate did not want to offend anyone before the election, she answered most questions \_\_\_\_\_. (*equivocate*)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. The clues were so strange and \_\_\_\_\_ that the detective could only scratch his head in bewilderment. (*paradox*)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. The phrase "nice job" can be \_\_\_\_\_ in totally different ways, depending on the speaker's tone of voice and the situation. (*construe*)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. The councilwoman will \_\_\_\_\_ what happened recently in nearby Smallville, when she makes her case for the recycling proposal. (*adduce*)

## FIND THE EXAMPLE

Choose the answer that best describes the action or situation.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. An example of a *paradox*  
a. fit athlete                      b. lawyer in nice car                      c. small baby                      d. pacifist in the army
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. How you would likely feel if you were facing a *conundrum*  
a. facts                      b. satisfied                      c. confident                      d. puzzled
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Something *adduced* to support an argument  
a. facts                      b. stone columns                      c. questions                      d. science fiction
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. An expression that means to *equivocate*  
a. run circles around you                      b. beat around the bush                      c. walk a country mile                      d. chill like ice cream
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Something that can be *confounded*  
a. perfect solution                      b. rocks                      c. bad situation                      d. dictionary
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Something musically *rudimentary*  
a. Mozart symphony                      b. conductor's score                      c. simple scale                      d. live jazz performance
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Something that you *construe*  
a. building                      b. symbol                      c. future event                      d. autobiography
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Something that may be clear to you but *cryptic* to others  
a. your class notes                      b. your speaking voice                      c. your eyes                      d. your species
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Someone NOT expected to be *perspicacious*  
a. professor                      b. expert                      c. infant                      d. doctor
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Something you might receive a *patent* for  
a. ice sculpture                      b. oil painting                      c. opinion                      d. invention